

Amendments to the Claims

The Listing of Claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in this application.

Listing of Claims

Claims 1-25 (cancelled)

26. (twice amended): A customer service device comprising:
a host machine for the vending of commercial products, said host machine including a host processor, and a housing; ~~and~~
a note acceptor-dispenser validator system for accepting currency notes and issuing credits to the host processor to cause the dispensing of the commercial products;
said note acceptor-dispenser validator system being further configured to accept a dispense change instruction from said host processor to cause the processing, and dispensing of notes and coins as change ~~in~~ based on the communication with said host processor, wherein said acceptor-dispenser validator system is mounted in said housing, said note acceptor-dispenser validator system including;
a note validator for receiving notes and sensing data relating to the authenticity, denomination, type and condition of notes received by said note validator, said note validator generating signals corresponding to the sensed data for each received note;
a validator processor for receiving and comparing said sensed data signals with stored data to validate said notes;
a note box configured to receive and hold notes received by said note validator;
a note hopper for receiving and storing up to a selected number of notes of a pre-selected denomination which are received by said note validator; and
a transportation unit for directing said notes determined to be authentic to one of said note box and said note hopper and for dispensing notes from said note hopper in response to an instruction from said validator processor.

27. (twice amended): A vending machine comprising:

a host machine for the automated sale of commercial products, said host machine including a host processor, and a housing; ~~and~~

a note acceptor-dispenser validator system for accepting currency notes and issuing credits to the host processor to cause the dispensing of the commercial products;

said note acceptor-dispenser validator system being further configured to accept a dispense change instruction from said host processor to cause the processing, and dispensing of notes and coins as change ~~in~~ based on the communication with said host processor, wherein said acceptor-dispenser validator system is mounted in said housing, and said note acceptor-dispenser validator system includes;

a note validator for receiving notes and sensing data identifying the type and condition of the received notes;

a note box to hold notes received by said note validator;

a note hopper to temporarily hold pre-selected characteristic notes received by said note validator, said notes being available to be subsequently dispensed by said note acceptor-dispenser validator system; and

a transportation unit for transporting received notes from said note validator to one of said note box and said note hopper and for transporting notes from said note hopper out through said note validator in response to an instruction.

28. (twice amended): A vending machine comprising:

a host machine for the automated sale of commercial products, said host machine having a host processor, and a housing; ~~and~~

a note acceptor-dispenser validator system for accepting currency notes and issuing credits to the host processor to cause the dispensing of the commercial products;

said note acceptor-dispenser validator system being further configured to accept a dispense change instruction from said host processor to cause the processing, and dispensing notes and coins as change ~~in~~ based on communications with said host processor, wherein said acceptor-dispenser validator system is mounted in said housing, and said note acceptor-dispenser validator system further comprises;

a note validator having an opening for receiving notes;

a note storage area to store notes received by said note validator when said notes are characterized by said note validator as meeting pre-selected characteristics; and

a transportation unit for transporting notes from said note validator to said note storage area and for dispensing notes from said note storage area through said opening in said note validator in response to an instruction.

29. (twice amended): A vending machine for dispensing product, the vending machine comprising:

a host machine for the dispensing of commercial products, said host machine including a host processor, and a housing; ~~and~~

a note acceptor-dispenser validator system for accepting currency notes and issuing credits to the host processor to cause the dispensing of the commercial products;

said note acceptor-dispenser validator system being further configured to accept a dispense change instruction from said host processor to cause the processing, and dispensing notes and coins as change in based on communications with said host processor, wherein said acceptor-dispenser validator system is mounted in said housing, and said note acceptor-dispenser validator system further comprises:

a note validator having an opening for receiving notes and a validator head for sensing data relating to the authenticity, denomination, and type of note received by said note validator, said note validator generating signals corresponding to the sensed data for each received note;

a validator processor for receiving and comparing said sensed data signals with stored data to validate said notes and generate a signal signifying receipt and the value of said note to said host processor;

a note box configured to receive and hold notes received by said note validator;

a note hopper for receiving and storing pre-selected characteristic notes received by said note validator; and

a transportation unit for directing validated notes to one of said note box and said note hopper for dispensing notes from said note hopper through said opening in said note validator in response to a dispense signal.

30. (previously amended): The vending machine for dispensing product of claim 29, wherein said validator head determines the value of notes dispensed by said note acceptor-dispenser prior to their being dispensed.